

**From:** Sandy Guldman <toyon@hooked.net>  
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**Date:** 2/5/99 5:35PM  
**Subject:** Conservation Strategy Weekly Report

The Staff Team met on Thursday 2/4/99 to be updated on the species experts meetings, review the schedule and writing assignments, and discuss work in progress (particularly if new policy issues have been identified. Peter Stine gave a presentation on the relationship between CMARP and the Conservation Strategy.

**SPECIES EXPERTS MEETINGS:** Two of the three meetings have been held. The experts were provided with species accounts. They were asked to review the species accounts, provide conservation measures necessary to meet the species goals, and describe the monitoring needed to evaluate the success of the conservation measures. Considerable valuable information has been provided, but it is fragmentary. Furthermore, many of the experts are reluctant to provide information in writing, but prefer to review material prepared by others. This makes the sessions less productive than members of the Staff Team had hoped.

**SCHEDULE:** The following changes to the schedule were made:

- \* One week has been added to the schedule for preparation of the Habitat Evaluation Tables. This change causes a similar day in the preparation of the impact assessment and description of the conservation measures (Chapter 5 of the Conservation Strategy). The information provided by the species experts will take more time to analyze than was expected.
- \* Two weeks have been added to the schedule for preparation of Chapter 7: Process for Compliance with ESA, CESA, and NCCPA. The attorneys from CALFED, USFWS, and CDFG are working on this chapter, but need more information about the scope of the Conservation Strategy, which in turn depends on policy decisions that have not been made by the Policy Team.
- \* Four weeks have been added to the schedule for preparation of Chapter 10: Assurances. This chapter cannot be prepared until decisions on what assurances should be included are made by the Policy Team.

**ISSUES/PROBLEMS:**

- \* How will service area impacts be handled? It would be easier to not address this issue, but that is not an option given the need to have NEPA and CEQA compliance for incidental take authorization for CALFED actions. The indirect, delayed, off-site impacts of actions must be analyzed. That includes service area impacts when the action is water delivery.
- \* What will be the term of the Conservation Strategy? Will it be a one-time document or updated as conservation measures change with adaptive management?
- \* The species list is being reviewed by staff and species experts. Any changes, either of commission or omission, will be identified by 2/17/99

\* Which species will be covered by the Biological Opinion? There are species being evaluated in the Conservation Strategy for which no take authorization will be requested. As the Conservation Strategy nears completion, it will be necessary to divide the evaluated species into two lists: those that will be covered by the Biological Opinion and those that will not.

\* What actions does CALFED plan to implement soon after the Biological Opinion is issued? Since the Conservation Strategy will not provide take authorization, preparation of the Biological Assessments for those actions must start soon to obtain take authorization in a timely manner. The first step in preparing the Biological Assessment for each action is to describe the action in sufficient detail to determine its impacts.

#### FUTURE MEETINGS:

The Staff Team will meet:

Tuesday	February 16, 1999	9 AM to Noon	Resources Building Room 804
Tuesday	March 2, 1999	9 AM to Noon	Resources Building Room 804

The Policy Team will meet:

Friday	February 12, 1999	9:30 AM to Noon	3310 El Camino
Friday	February 26, 1999	9:30 AM to Noon	Resources Building

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